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COUNTRY Cuba *Military + NAVAL MATTERS* REPORT NO. CS DB-312/01870-66

SUBJECT 1. *Activities of a Group of Cuban Officers Who are Members of the 26th of July Movement* DATE DISTR. 5 July 1966

2. *Loyalties of Leading Army Officers* NO. PAGES 2

REFERENCES

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
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DATE OF INFO. Late April and mid-June 1966

PLACE & DATE ACQ. See below

FIELD REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE See below

France, Paris (21 June 1966)

Source, Para. 1:

1. In mid-June 1966 a group of officers was said to be looking for a "way out" (French, "une sortie") for Castro. Although informed of this project, Castro is taking no action, while following the affair closely. This group of officers, made up of members of the 26th of July Movement, is directed by Pedro Miret Prieto, a Cuban Communist Party (PCC) Central Committee member, and by Humberto ~~Castell~~ *Castell*, *Director of the National Port Service*. *1*

United States (11 June 1966)

Source, Para. 2. A prominent Cuban exile with well defined political ambitions, source is a fairly reliable reporter. In addition to maintaining an unusually large number of direct and indirect contacts among Cuban exiles and influential Latin American nationals, he has some contacts in Cuba. Source said that he obtained this information from a governmental employee on the island.

2. In late April 1966 unrest within the FAR was unquestionable, and military leaders like Juan ~~Almeida~~ *Almeida*, Sergio del ~~Valle~~ *Valle*, Jimenez, and Pedro Miret, who have gained the respect and admiration of the troops, gave the appearance of supporting the regime more out of loyalty than of conviction. These men are devoted to their military duties, and they follow the leader or the cause for which they fought against Batista without becoming influenced by Communist ideology. Majors Bernabe ~~Ordaz~~ *Ordaz* and Victor ~~Bordon~~ *Bordon*, who are not Communist Party members, are isolated from the troops. Ordaz is preoccupied with his job in the Havana Psychiatric (formerly Mazorra) Hospital, and Bordon has been relegated to an unimportant post. *3*

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CSDB-312/01870-66

- 2 -

Headquarters Comments

1. Paragraph 4 of CS-311/08789-66 identifies other Army majors who are said to be continuing efforts to organize a rebellion; Miret and Castello were not mentioned in the Spanish Service report. Castello is reportedly an intimate friend of Faure Chomon Medavilla, Minister of Transportation and leader of the 13th of March Revolutionary Directorate, an organization to which Castello belonged. *cuba*
2. Unlike Miret and del Valle, Almeida is not a PCC Central Committee member; del Valle is a member of the Political Bureau and also of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and State Security Committee of the Central Committee of the PCC.
3. TPCS-314/02675-66 contains Bordon's comments about unrest in the FAR, which, in his opinion, is greater every day but does not pose a current threat to the Castro regime because mutual distrust between officers, noncommissioned officers, and enlisted men makes any united action impossible. Bordon is one of numerous Army officers whose arrest has been reported by refugee sources in the purge which followed the Cubela trial. CS-311/05970-66 and reports referenced therein contain speculation on the reasons behind the purge, including the possibility that the purge is directed at members of the 13th of March Revolutionary Directorate.

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